GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2847
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2002
PLANTATION OF TEA AND COFFEE
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether soil, agro-climatic condition suitable for tea and coffee plantation in different regions of the country have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any area in Orissa has been found suitable;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken since then for plantation of coffee and tea in these areas and the achievements made so far; and

(e) the projected growth of tea and coffee production in different parts of the country including Orissa during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to(e) : Yes, Sir. It is a fact that regarding tea, over the last two decades several feasibility studies have been undertaken to assess the soil and agro climatic condition for determining the suitability of tea plantation in unexploited non-traditional areas of the country for tea plantation on a commercial scale. The identified areas have been declared as non-traditional areas for extending the benefit of financial assistance under Tea Board`s Scheme. These areas include States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Garhwal and Kumaon hills in Uttaranchal, non-tea growing areas in the districts of Idukki and Wyanad in Kerala, Kodagu district in Karnataka, Kodaikanal and Anamalais in Tamil Nadu, North Cachar hills and Karbi Anglong Autonomous districts in Assam, southern district in Tripura, Mandi and Chamba districts in Himachal Pradesh and Kishanganj district of Bihar. Surveys were conducted by the Tea Board in the districts of Kalahandi, Rayagada and Keonjhar to assess the suitability of the areas for tea cultivation in the State of Orissa. The identified areas were prima facie found suitable for tea cultivation subject to provision of assured artificial irrigation during the dry months at an economic cost for which Tea Board provides assistance under its Plan Schemes. So far 213 ha. of land is under tea cultivation in the Keonjhar District of Orissa.

Traditionally coffee has been commercially cultivated in the three southern states namely Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. As agro climatic conditions such as elevation aspects, rainfall pattern, temperature range, shade, soil profile etc. are crucial for coffee cultivation, the regions viz. Western ghats and Eastern ghats were identified as ideal locations for commercial coffee cultivation in India. However, to a limited extent, certain Eastern ghat areas in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa as well as some hilly tracts in the seven North Eastern states were also found suitable for coffee cultivation according to the surveys carried out by the Coffee Board during 1970s and 1980s. The Coffee Board implemented a Special Area Programme in Orissa during the 9th Plan to bring in new area under coffee cultivation, consolidate existing holdings to improve productivity & for upgradation of quality etc. An estimated extent of 22,257 ha. spread over six districts of Orissa state namely Koraput, Rayagada, Kalhandi, Kandhamar, Keonjhar and Gajapathi were found suitable for cultivation of coffee. Currently coffee is cultivated in about 2000 ha. in the state of Orissa.

The projected tea and coffee production in the country including Orissa, by the end of 10th Five year Plan is 1044.00 million kgs. and 4,20,000 MT respectively as against 875 million kgs of production of tea and 3,00,600 MT production of coffee during the terminal year of the 9th Plan.